

that Canvasbacks have so increased in numbers that marsh shooting is neglected for the bay. All of these causes, however, operate to reduce alike the take of Black Ducks and Mallards, both varieties being shot in the same ponds on the marshes. The Black Duck is also a warier bird and decoys less readily than any other species. Very few breed, but begin to arrive early in September, a week or ten days ahead of the Mallards, and remain to feed on the wild rice until winter sets in.

While all ducks seem to have increased in numbers of late years, the Canvasback is the most notable example. It has always in numbers frequented the celery bays, but commencing with 1902 it has been represented each autumn in most extraordinary numbers. During the past eight years — 1902 to 1909 — the number taken at the Club at Monroe, Michigan, is nearly three times as great as taken in the preceding eight years — 1894 to 1901, and this in view of the fact that during most of the later period the law has limited the daily bag to twenty-five, while in the earlier period there was no limit but conscience. There were, as stated before, also fewer gunners.

The first Canvasbacks arrive from the north about October 15 and remain until the first severe cold. In 1904 they were in such great numbers that after eating all the celery from the bay they frequented the larger ponds in the marsh, something not previously known to occur.— HAROLD HERRICK, *New York City*.

A Small Flight of Gadwalls (*Chaulclasmus streperus*) **near New York.**— Early in the morning of October 16, 1909, my young friends Allan and James Hand were watching at a pond on the salt marshes near Lawrence, L. I. About sunrise a flock of seven odd looking ducks circled the pond several times and finally six of them came to the decoys, four being shot. The boys remained an hour or so longer, seeing two or three more flocks that they felt sure were the same kind of duck, but none came near enough for positive identification. They brought the birds to me — to be identified as young Gadwalls, rather poor in flesh, their average weight being under twenty-four ounces. The best one I preserved.

My friend Col. Franklin Brandreth of Ossining, N. Y., tells me of a single specimen brought to him, that was killed near that place about October 29, 1909.

The marshes of Lake Erie are the nearest points to Long Island where the Gadwall is regularly found, and there they are not very common. The carefully kept record of a shooting club at the western end of the lake shows that in twenty-one years, to 1908, but one has been taken in each two hundred ducks, or about one-half per cent. of the total score. This year (1909), however, they were more abundant than usual, I personally securing eleven specimens, which is exactly the same number I have secured, in the aggregate, on the same marshes, during the previous eighteen years.— HAROLD HERRICK, *New York City*.

An Albino Duck.—On September 12, 1909, a hunter brought in a pure white duck which he had shot at Lake Traverse, near Wheaton, Minnesota, the day before. I examined the duck and could find no trace of a colored feather anywhere. The white was not pure white but slightly tinged with yellow and the legs were of a dull yellow color. The bird was the same size and shape as some Gadwalls which were in the string but it might have been a Widgeon, I could not absolutely say which. If the duck had not been so badly shot up and if the man, even at that, had not expressed his desire of having it mounted I should have tried to secure the specimen.—ALBERT W. HONYWILL, JR., *New Haven, Conn.*

Snow Geese in Framingham, Massachusetts.—I wish to report that on November 19, 1909, in Framingham, at 12.50 p. m., I observed, at close range, a flock of thirty or more Snow Geese flying very low towards me from northeast to southwest over open fields. Hearing the distant honking I had been prepared to see Canada Geese but to my amazement the birds were pure white with the tips of the primaries black. When first seen the birds were flying in a V and were very noisy. I observed the birds most carefully, noting their size and their curiously shaped, brightly colored bills. The birds were almost as large as Canada Geese and it is my belief that they were the Greater rather than the Lesser Snow Geese.—LIDIAN E. BRIDGE, *West Medford, Mass.*

Another Swan for Maine.—In the Ellsworth 'Ameriean' for April 1, 1908, appeared the following item: "A handsome bird, rare for this section, was brought to E. D. Brann, taxidermist at Ellsworth today. It is a wild swan, which was shot at Webb's Pond by Hamlin Kingman of Waltham, Monday. It is a young bird, pure white, except for its black feet and bill and grayish shade on head and neck. . . ." As the writer had occasion to be in Ellsworth immediately afterward he visited the taxidermist shop of Mr. Brann but found the proprietor was out. The bird could be seen through the store window but was too far away to permit of its specific identification. On other occasions when in Ellsworth I was likewise unable to see the bird at closer quarters. Recently I asked Miss Cordelia J. Stanwood of Ellsworth if she would not get careful measurements and a description of the bird for me, knowing she was a careful observer and bird student. She very kindly obtained and sent me the following description: "Bill and feet of specimen black; a yellow spot before the eye or on the lores; distance from nostril to the eye much greater than distance from nostril to tip of bill; head somewhat tinged with warm gray or pearl gray; the rest of the bird white. The specimen is in pretty good condition aside from dirt." In connection with Miss Stanwood's description and my own distant view of the bird I have no hesitation in pronouncing it a Whistling Swan, a bird new to Maine. The only other identified species of swan known from Maine is the Whooping Swan, being the specimen formerly in the collection of Clarence H. Clark of Lubec, and now, I have been told, in the Bowdoin College collection.—ORA WILLIS KNIGHT, *Bangor, Me.*